

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
3/23/16**

Board and Liaison Members Present: Suzanne Anthony, Chair (presiding), Caroline Ortiz, Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, Krista Loomis, Vi Ibarra, Dan Denis, Heidi Spaulding, Will Sanford, Jim Burton, Nina Vincent, Kim Williams (by phone), Nickole Bouslog (by phone), Craig Rose, Pam Perls, Karen Lingenfelter-Carmen, Heather Hackett, and Douglas Quinn.

Josh Sullivan, Staff.

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Paula Senigar, Peggy Black, Carl Tolentino, Barbara Maizie, Ron Usac, and Ken Talken.

Guests: Carol Anne McCrary, Contra Costa ARC; Marcelle Indelicato, Contra Costa Office of Emergency Services; Murri Banis, Commercial Support Services-Richmond; Maria Marquez; Jeanine Bishop, West Contra Costa Unified School District; David J. Hiller, The Mentor Network; Jackie Johnston, CCS; Ajati Sankoh, Sierra Environmental and Social Services, Inc.; Ryan-Thomas Brown; Geneva Ziaoure, Manos Home Care; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Miriam Gomez, La Familia Counseling; Kate Rauch, District Coordinator, County Supervisor John Gioia's Office; Marnie Raymond, Autism Spectrum Parent Support Group; Michele Ternes, Commercial Support Services Supported Employment; Vincent Martinez, Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office; Donna Feingold, Center for Adaptive Learning.

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Suzanne Anthony, Chair, and everyone was welcomed. Introductions were made.

- The meeting minutes for February 2016 were approved unanimously **(M/Karen Lingenfelter-Carmen; S/Heidi Spaulding)**.
- There were no additions to today's agenda.

RCEB Update by Jim Burton, Executive Director:

Jim informed us that the regular State Budget process is continuing and hearings have already begun. Most of our issues were handled in the Special Session, however, there are additional initiatives to be concerned about, such as:

- Complying with new rules by the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS), there is a proposal for \$46.5 million to reduce group homes to a 4-bed model. These funds are to assist in transitioning the homes.
- There is also \$15 million to transition other services to CMS rules---however, the rules have not been set in California (task force is working on them).
- There is \$17 million to hire 200 additional Case Managers to start the process of getting caseloads down to meet state-mandated ratios.

One controversial proposal is to take \$42.5 million from the current Purchase of Service (POS) budget to pay off an audit exception owed from the Developmental Centers. The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) has taken a position to oppose this, as it would be more appropriate to take the funds out of the General Fund. A motion was made for this Council to also oppose this maneuver and write a letter of opposition to Assemblymembers Thurman and Bonta **(M/Caroline Ortiz; S/Jim Burton; passed unanimously)**.

Sonoma Developmental Center is planned to close in 2018, with 110 people returning to RCEB's catchment areas (Contra Costa and Alameda Counties).

Other RCEB news:

- The County Board of Supervisors honored Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB) for its 40th anniversary at a recent meeting. Jim wanted to thank Josh, Suzanne, and Caroline for speaking at the meeting to honor RCEB.
- The Concord RCEB office is moving on May 20th to a location 2-3 miles away. There will be bigger conference rooms and more conference rooms for community meetings. More information to follow.
- Pam Thomas is retiring next week and there will be a party. Ronke Sodipo will be taking her place on April 1st.
- On April 4th Nancy Barkman will begin as the Director of the State Department of Developmental Disabilities. She has had prior experience working at Regional Center, DDS and has been a service contractor.
- The Developmental Services Task Force will be developing a new rate structure for vendored services and for Regional Center.
- Ann Struthers, the President of the RCEB Board of Directors will be leaving her post due to term limits. She will be missed. They will be naming a new President shortly.
- The Self-Determination Committee is in a holding pattern, as the California plan has not been approved by the Federal government. The CMS rules are not finalized, thus could not be included in the overall plan. The next meeting of this group is April 4th in this room and everyone is welcome to attend.

Jim and Will Sanford discussed the survey that has been distributed to 2000 vendors in California as a result of the Special Session. The vendors were picked at random and cost statements are due by April 15th. Payroll information for direct service staff and a few administrative costs are included. They are talking about ways to provide assistance to smaller vendors. There is a conference call this Friday and next Monday for more direction and to get questions answered.

The survey information will then assist in the delivery of wage/benefits pass-throughs (rate increases) to 16,000 vendors, effective July 1, 2016. Then, 1 year later, a report will be due to verify how the funds were spent.

Jim reviewed other highlights from the Special Session (see last month's meeting minutes) that will also result in an additional matching amount of \$186 million in Federal funds.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities Bay Area Office: No report.

Committee Reports:

- Executive Committee: They continue to look for volunteers to assist with implementing the Innovation Grant that was approved last meeting. Please contact Josh, Suzanne, or Caroline if you are interested. The application will be 500 words or less and the reporting requirement will be to present the results of the project at the next DD Council Annual dinner in 2017.
- Strategic Planning Committee: Looking for more funding for the Innovation Grant.
- Legislative Committee: March 30th is ARCA's Grassroots Day at noon at the steps of the State Capital, along with the Lanterman Coalition, to thank legislators for their work during the Special Session. Our goal is to keep up the awareness of our issues.
- Nominating Committee: Craig Rose introduced Maria Marquez, an experienced self-advocate who has expressed interest in serving on this Board. Maria was described as

having more than 25 years of advocacy experience as a service recipient, parent, and has assisted people in fair hearings. She worked at a Family Resource Center in Los Angeles. She is also bilingual (English/Spanish).

A motion was made to recommend Maria as a Board member **((M/Jim Burton; S/Nickole Bouslog)**, passing unanimously.

- Transition Committee: No report
- **A short break for networking was taken.**

Presentation: Bridge to Success (BTS): Employing Members of the DD Community in Contra Costa County

Speaker: Kate Rauch, District Coordinator, Supervisor John Gioia's office.

Kate introduced a pilot program proposal to employ people with developmental disabilities in positions within the County Library and the County Health Services Department. Her goal is to create jobs in public agencies, with County wages/benefits, similar to San Francisco, Alameda County and Lawrence Livermore Lab. She distributed a Draft Proposal that is being discussed in a Board of Supervisor's sub-committee at least 2 more times, before going to the full Board. She stated that advocacy will be needed, as they need at least 5 votes to pass.

Kate would like to organize a meeting of stakeholders in Martinez to refine this draft, while it is still in committee. She would like to make this opportunity available to people served by RCEB, along with those served by the Department of Rehabilitation. The pilot project will be 1 year in duration, with a 6 month evaluation. Not only does it require approval from the Board of Supervisors, but also from the Unions before it can get started.

Unique to this project is that an advocate/job coach may assist an applicant in the interview preparation, ask clarification questions during the interview, re-state questions, and prompt the candidate, as needed.

This is a very exciting employment opportunity and several people volunteered to give input into the proposal. Kate has been working for more than 1 year on this project and her efforts were applauded.

Announcements:

- DDS is hosting 2 webinars regarding the vendor cost survey: This Friday at 9:00 a.m., and next Monday at 2:00 p.m.
- Futures Explored is hosting a film premier at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Tuesday, March 29th at 6:00 p.m., featuring films from their student workshop.
- Congresso Familiar in Oakley will be held on April 16th.
- Loma Vista and the Center for Adaptive Learning will be hosting an Autism Awareness Walk on April 23rd.
- Josh included in our packet today a Call for Nominations for awards to be given at the June 7th Annual Dinner. Please submit your nominations to Josh soon.

Upcoming Meetings:

April 27, 2016

May 25, 2016

Annual Dinner @ Scott's in Oakland on June 7, 2016

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

**Our next meeting is April 27, 2016 at
RCEB-Concord, Conference Room, 3rd Floor
2151 Salvio Street,
Concord, CA**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Carol Anne McCrary

Contra Costa ARC